

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 05290 091904Z

46

ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4195

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

RUFHRO AMEMBASSY ROME 1107

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5290

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL: AN ASSESSMENT

REF: LISBON 5272 DTG 091237Z SEP 75

1. FOLLOWING THE SEPT 8 DECISION OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL
(RC) TO RETAIN ANTUNES, ALVES, AND COSTA MARTINES, AND TO ACCEPT
THE RESIGNATION OF PINTO SOARES, THE 23-MAN RC NOW HAS THE
FOLLOWING POLITICAL BREAKDOWN:

(A) ANTI-COMMUNISTS (10):

-- GEN MORAIS DA SILVA

-- GEN PINHO FREIRE

-- MAJ MELO ANTUNES

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LISBON 05290 091904Z

-- MAJ VICTOR ALVES

- BG CHARAIS
- BG PEZARAT CORREIA
- CPT VASCO LOURENCO
- CPT SOUSA E CASTRO
- MAJ CANTO E CASTRO
- MAJ COSTA NEVES

(B) ANTI-COMMUNIST BUT MORE AMBIGUOUS IN THEIR ACTIONS (3):

- PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES
- GEN FABIAO
- GEN OTELO CARVALHO
- CAPT MARQUEZ JUNIOR

(C) LEFT, BUT NOT COMMUNIST SYMPATHIZERS (3):

- ADM AZEVEDO
- ADM ROSA COUTINHO
- MAJ COSTA MARTINS

(C) COMMUNIST SYMPATHIZERS (6):

- CAPT RAMIRO CORREIA
- CDR MARTINS GUERREIRO
- LCDR CONTREIRAS
- LT JUDAS
- CPT GRACA CUNHA
- MAJ PEREIRA PINTO

2. FABIAO AND AZEVEDO WILL VOTE WITH THE PRESIDENT ON MOST ISSUES. DEPT WILL NOTE THE ADDITION OF GRACA CUNHA AND JOSE PINTO TO THE RANK OF THE COMMUNIST SYMPATHIZERS -- THE RESULT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION COMING TO OUR ATTENTION SINCE THE LAST REPORT. HOWEVER, INFORMATION ON THESE TWO IS STILL SCANTY.

3. PRESUMABLY, VASCO LOURENCO'S COMMITTEE FOR RESTRUCTURING THE RC, COMPOSED OF LOURENCO AND TWO MEMBERS FROM EACH SERVICE TO BE DESIGNATED BY THE RESPECTIVE CHIEF OF STAFF, WILL DEAL WITH THE UNEQUAL DISTRIBUTION BETWEEN THE SERVICES. IN ADDITION TO PRESIDENT, ARMY NOW HAS NINE, NAVY SIX, AND AIR FORCE SEVEN MEMBERS. RESTRUCTURING CARRIED OUT IN SEPT 5 AFM ASSEMBLY HAD 8-6-6 SERVICE SPLIT.

4. COMMENT: POLITICAL POSITIONS OF RC MEMBERS HAVE IN PAST BEEN SUBJECT TO CONTINUAL SHIFTS AND REALIGNMENTS. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE IN REGARD TO GROUPS (B) AND (C). IT HAS BEEN MUCH CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LISBON 05290 091904Z

LESS SO WITH THE COMMUNIST-SYMPATHIZERS AND WILL, IN THE FUTURE, PROBABLY BE LESS SO WITH GROUP (A).

5. AS OF TODAY, THE ANTI-COMMUNIST GROUP IS, IF THE PRESIDENT COMES DOWN ON THEIR SIDE (BY NO MEANS A SURE THING), IN A POSITION TO CONTROL THE RC. LOURENCO'S COMMITTEE FOR RESTRUCTURING IS LIKELY TO KEEP THE ANTI-COMMUNISTS ON TOP. LOURENCO HIMSELF IS

A MEMBER OF THE ANTUNES NINE, AF CHIEF MORAIS SUPPORTED THE NINE AND IS EXPECTED TO APPOINT ANTI-COMMUNISTS, AND FABIAO, ALTHOUGH HE TENDS TO VACILLATE, WILL PROBABLY GO WITH THE NINE. ONLY THE TWO NAVY APPOINTMENTS ON THE SEVEN-MAN COMMITTEE ARE LIKELY TO BE COMMUNIST-SYMPATHIZERS. EVEN THIS IS NOT CERTAIN, SINCE AZEVEDO WILL PRESUMABLY APPOINT THEM. IT WILL BE A REVEALING POLITICAL TEST FOR THE PRIME MINISTER-DESIGNATE.
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